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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY,  
JANUARY 8, 2003

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for January 8, 2003. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICS, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS  
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"BALCONIES OVERLOOKING INCIRLIK AIR BASE FOR RENT" (Radikal/Bolge) Merchants at the Wholesalers' Complex across from Adana's Incirlik Air Base offered the balconies of their places of business for rent prior to the possible U.S. operation against Iraq. Some media organizations wanted to rent these workplaces' balconies to watch the taking off and landing of fighters and other military planes more comfortably. One merchant who refused to disclose his name announced having allocated his balcony to a television station.

INCREASED ANTI-WAR SENSITIVITY IN MALATYA (Evrensel) Representatives of organizations and institutions forming the Malatya War Opponents Platform pointed to increased anti-war sensitivity following reports that the U.S. wants to use that province's Erhac Air Base in the event of war in Iraq. The representatives stressed that a majority of the public were against this war and that it could be prevented through the public's will.

OPPOSITION AGAINST POSSIBILITY OF DIYARBAKIR BECOMING A TARGET (Evrensel) Behcet Balik, President of the Diyarbakir Young Businessmen's Association (DIGIAD), expressed opposition to the possible U.S. operation against Iraq, saying the use by the U.S. of the Diyarbakir Air Base would turn the region into a target for Iraq. Ali Oncu, President of the Diyarbakir chapter of the nationwide Tes-Is labor union, called for struggle against (this) war. The Diyarbakir Physicians Chamber President, Necdet Ipekyuz, said hospitals, physicians and the number of beds were not sufficient in Diyarbakir, which is included in the list of critical provinces due to U.S. preparations for an operation against Iraq. The SES health employees' union Diyarbakir chapter president complained the State did not care about the region's people.

KANADOGLU: ERDOGAN CANNOT BE NOMINATED FROM SIIRT (All papers) Supreme Court of Appeals Chief Prosecutor Sabih Kanadoglu said new candidates cannot be nominated in the Siirt elections, which are characterized as "a continuation and renewal" of the November 3 parliamentary elections, signaling that he would object to AK Party leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan's candidacy (in that province). Kanadoglu based his argument on the Member of Parliament Election Law's Article 25, which prevents nomination of new candidates in the renewal of an election, as well as on Article 16, which says one person cannot run twice in the same election, i.e. from two different constituencies. Thus, Kanadoglu expressed an opinion against a (recent) Higher Election Council (YSK) decision stating that "new candidates may be nominated in the Siirt elections in the event of a resignation or death." Kanadoglu indicated the recent Constitutional amendments removing legal obstacles in front of Erdogan could not be implemented in the Siirt elections, as they were "a continuation" of the November 3 elections. He noted that these rules would only be valid in case of a by-election. Sabah quoted AK Party officials as negatively reacting to Kanadoglu by saying that "it is YSK that will make a decision on this". AK Party vice national president Dengir Firat noted that acting with Kanadoglu's mindset would mean that Fadil

Akgunduz can re-nominate himself. (Note: Akgunduz, a fugitive sought for swindling for a long time, was elected to the parliament in the November 3 elections through an election campaign carried out by his attorney, but was arrested and jailed soon after the Siirt elections were canceled.)

#### VILLAGE GUARD SALARIES UNDER INVESTIGATION

(Turkiye) The Bitlis Governor's Office launched a comprehensive investigation to look into monthly salaries and severance pay paid to local village guards since 1990. The investigation stemmed from increased complaints that some village guards had received payments although they should not have been paid and vice versa.

#### ALLEGATIONS OF PRESSURE AGAINST MARDIN INMATES

(Evrensel) Relatives of inmates incarcerated in Mardin's E-type prison complained about maltreatment in the prison. Inmates' complaints included:

- Fourteen inmates were put in six-person wards and 24 inmates in eight-person ones;
- Wards' walls were painted in colors displeasing to inmates' eyes;
- Threats of epidemic diseases;
- Poisoning from prison food;
- Prohibition of publications not banned by courts; and
- Insult by soldiers and prison guards.

#### SANLIURFA VILLAGERS APPLY TO HRA FOR ASSISTANCE

(Evrensel) Mehmet Sakin, a resident of Siverek's (Sanliurfa) Hebana village whose brother was seriously wounded when five local village guards allegedly opened fire on their vehicle on route to Viransehir to take revenge because of a blood feud between them, applied to the Human Rights Association (HRA) in Gaziantep for assistance. Based on Sakin's testimony, the village guards were arrested, but were later set free.

#### HONOR KILLING IN BATMAN

(Cumhuriyet/Radikal/Turkiye) Twenty-four-year-old Sevide Uyanik of Sason's (Batman) Gecitli village was found dead on December 30, with her three-day-old baby strangled and thrown two kilometers outside the village. Uyanik's relatives reported the incident to the local Jandarma command as a suicide. However, an investigation by the Sason Prosecutor's Office revealed that Uyanik had delivered a baby before dying and that there were signs of two Kalashnikov bullets in her body. Her son and brother-in-law Mahmut Uyanik, to whose home she and her husband's second wife moved after her husband had been ordered held for smuggling, were arrested. The arrestees were later ordered to remain in custody. Prosecutor Mehmet Firat said a DNA test would help find out who the baby's father was, how it died, and with whom the killed woman had an intercourse. Firat added that a sample taken from the baby's body had already been sent to the Istanbul Forensic Medical Department (for analysis).

#### SANLIURFA YOUTHS AGAINST THE CLAN SYSTEM

(Evrensel) A survey carried out by a group of Sanliurfa's Harran University students on 83 of their peers, among them 33 women, showed that youths were against the "clan" or "tribal" system that still prevails in the Southeast. The survey also found out that 40% of the students were clan members, while 63% thought it was not important to have ties to a clan.

#### DEFENDANT IN THE CASE OF SLAIN THAI TOURIST CONVICTED

(Turkiye) The Sanliurfa Felony Court convicted 21-year-old Serdar Beyazit of "rape, murder and extortion." Beyazit was the only defendant in the case of Thai tourist Liu Chie Ying, who was found dead in her room of a Sanliurfa hotel after being sexually assaulted and killed. Beyazit was sentenced to a prison term of ten years for extortion, seven years for rape and life imprisonment for murder.

#### "WHERE DID YOU GET IT FROM" CASE AGAINST ADANA

##### MAYOR DURAK

(Radikal/Milliyet) Adana Mayor Aytac Durak faces a

"Where did you get it from" case. (Note: Ironically, the Mayor himself once brought a libel suit against individuals who had said of him: "He owns half of Adana".) Following a complaint to the Justice Ministry and reports by a local newspaper on Durak and his family's assets and property, Interior Ministry inspectors launched an investigation against Durak. According to the Land Registry Office, Durak and his spouse own 1.7 million square meters of land; his son and daughter have 17 houses/apartments and places of business (offices). Prosecutor Vedat Mentesh opened the case after he found out Durak had acquired enormous wealth after being elected mayor. If convicted of "untrue property declaration and unjust property obtainment," Durak will be sentenced to a prison term of eight years and his unjustly-obtained property will be confiscated.

#### ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

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"ATATURK DAM PRINTING MONEY"  
(Cumhuriyet) Sanliurfa's Ataturk Dam and Hydro-electric Power Plant produced over five billion kilowatt hours of energy (electricity), amounting to nearly USD 250 million. Production by the eight units (turbines) of the Ataturk Dam, which constitutes the most important part of the Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP), exceeded 2002 targets.

COMMERCIAL CREDITS FOR ADANA BUSINESSMEN  
(Milliyet/Bolge) Disbank and the Adana Chamber of Commerce (ACOC) signed a protocol agreement to enable ACOC members to take advantage of Disbank's "Entrepreneur Support Credit". Under the agreement, Disbank will provide small- and medium-scale industries (KOBİ's) with long-term, fixed-rate and flexible-paying commercial and other credits ranging from TL 5-50 billion (approx. USD 3,000-30,000).

FOREIGN INTEREST IN SANLIURFA KILIMS  
(Milli Gazete) Kilims woven by 50 Siverek (Sanliurfa) girls in carpet looms established by the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation, an affiliate of the district governor's office, reportedly have entered the European market. The paper points to big demand from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, France and other European countries for these kilims bearing historical, Central Asian, and Karakeci (an ancient Turkish tribe) motifs.

TOBACCO FARMERS NOW FREQUENTERS OF COFFEEHOUSES  
(Evrensel) With tobacco cultivation declining nearly to zero, tobacco farmers in Batman's Kozluk township are now spending their time in local coffeehouses. A majority of Kozluk's 30,000 people are now jobless as there are not many job opportunities outside tobacco cultivation. The number of coffeehouses has reportedly risen to a peak of 60 from only four or five two years ago.  
HOLTZ